



Doncaster East

Community Bank® Branch Bendigo Bank

Community Bank® pays community dividend

Doncaster East, Thursday 5 October 2006: From the day the doors of the Doncaster East Community Bank Branch first opened in March 2003 the community has enthusiastically supported the Jackson Court branch.

Now, those community spirited investors who provided the capital to establish the branch are to be rewarded with the Company's maiden dividend.

The year to 30 June 2006 was another highly successful one for the community-owned branch, with continued strong growth in business volumes.

Doncaster East **Community Bank®** Branch Chairman Jim Christie said the company's strong growth in business had translated into strong growth in earnings.

"Gross income showed a 42 per cent improvement over the previous year, while expenses increased by just eight per cent," Mr Christie said.

"So the Company is delighted to be able to reward its shareholders with a dividend of 7.5 cents per share," he said.

"Of equal importance is the fact that the Company is now putting increasing amounts of money back into the local community by way of support for local not for profit organisations.

"This has always been a key objective and the community is now starting to reap the benefits of the branch's success."

Mr Christie said this success had been achieved in spite of ever increasing competition from other banks and financial institutions.

However, he said, the public was increasingly recognising that the Bendigo Bank brand had differentiated itself in a crowded market through outstanding customer service and a genuine commitment to the communities it serves.

Doncaster East **Community Bank®** Branch Manager Paul Thompson said: "We know from customer feedback that our branch is up there with the best of them and that we now have thousands of very satisfied customers."

Mr Thompson said this was reflecting in the latest AC Nielsen survey on customer satisfaction for the Banking and Finance Industry, which saw the Bendigo Bank network achieve a remarkable 99.6% satisfaction rating

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